



SENATE CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE

STATE CAPITOL
SACRAMENTO, CALIFORNIA
95814

**Subcommittee on International Trade
Policy and State Legislation
Senator Liz Figueroa, Chair**

**Select Committee on Air Quality
Senator Dean Florez, Chair**

You are invited to a legislative hearing on.

The WTO and the 2007 Farm Bill: The New Debate on Agricultural Assistance Programs

Summary: Recently, the World Trade Organization (WTO) ruled that current aspects of the U.S. subsidies system for cotton and rice violate WTO rules. This ruling will undoubtedly increase existing international pressures for the U.S. to restructure its system of federal agricultural assistance in the 2007 Farm Bill. With the highest agricultural yields of any state in the U.S., a sound dedication to promote environmentally and socially responsible methods of production, and the sixth largest economy in the world, California is in a unique position to weigh in on the new debate surrounding the Farm Bill. On June 29th the Senate Subcommittee on International Trade Policy and State Legislation and the Senate Select Committee on Air Quality will examine the stakes for California in the 2007 Farm Bill, and the potential benefits of restructuring farm assistance programs toward incentives for resource and environmental conservation, for renewable energy usage, and for community food programs, that comply with current World Trade Organization rules.

Invited Speakers: Ed Thompson, Director, California Office, American Farmland Trust; Peter Riggs, Executive Director, Forum on Democracy and Trade; Helen Flach, Ph.D., NCRS, Assistant State Conservationist, USDA; Paul Robins, Director, Yolo County Resource Conservation District; Don Ackerman, Director of Grower Relations, Central Coast Vineyard Team; Kathryn Phillips, Environmental Defense; Peter Weiner, AES Corporation; John Diener, Owner, Red Rock Ranch; Gary Conover, Western United Dairymen; Heather Fenney, California Food and Justice Coalition; Sharon Eghigian, Executive Director for the California Association of Food Banks; Erin Field, Western Growers Association; Sue Foerster, Department of Health Services; A.G. Kawamura, Secretary, California Department of Food and Agriculture; Claudia Reid, California Coalition for Food and Farming; Matt McInerney, Executive Vice President, Western Growers Association.

***Wednesday, June 29, 2005
9:30a.m. to 12:00p.m.
Room 2040, State Capitol***

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